

Serial No. 10/660,141
Customer No. 24498

PF030065

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Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner has applied US patent 6,400,702 to Meier, to Claim 1, under 35 USC 102. The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this rejection.

Figure 9 of Meier shows WDAPs 441 coupling network 421 to wired subnet 403, and WDAPs 457 coupling second network 423 to wired subnet 405. In addition, wired subnet 401 is coupled to network 421 by WDAPp 425, and to network 423 by WDAPp 453. None of these WDAP devices connect:

"a centralized wireless network to a plurality of other networks",

as specifically set forth in Claim 1. Rather, each of the WDAP devices connects to only a single subnet. While it is true that network 421 allows communication between wired subnets 401 and 403, nowhere does Meier show or suggest:

"Bridging device for connecting a centralized wireless network to a plurality of other networks"

as specifically recited in Claim 1. Rather, each bridging device of Meier connects to only a single network.

Nowhere does Meier show or suggest:

"only one access point device other than said bridge said access point device being adapted to manage the centralized wireless network"

as specifically recited in Claim 1. Meier shows WMAP devices 431, 433 and 435, each providing access for an external device. For example, as explained in column 24, lines 57 to 67, WMAP device 431 may route a message toward a personal computer 413. It is therefore clear that Meier does not show only one access point device other than the bridge device, as set forth in Claim 1, but rather shows multiple access point devices

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being adapted to manage the centralized wireless network. It is therefore clear that Meier does not affect the patentability of Claim 1.

The Examiner has cited US patent 5,570,366 to Baker et al, against Claims 3 to 9, under 35 USC 103. Claims 3 to 9 are dependent from Claim 1.

Baker et al relates to an arrangement to reduce the bandwidth requirement of wireless LANs by providing a filter to remove unwanted messages from broadcasts or multi-casts. Each access point for each WLAN maintains a list of parameters for each associated mobile terminal. Since the Examiner has not applied Baker et al. to Claim 1, the Applicants submit that no further discussion of Baker et al. is required.

Claims 2 to 9 are dependent from Claim 1 and add further advantageous features. The Applicants submit that subclaims 2 to 9 are patentable as their parent Claim 1.

The Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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